

## IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A method executed by multiple dispersed ~~devices~~ file servers for adapting data received from a remote sending device in a single heterogeneous network according to quality of service parameters associated with a plurality of network segments that are downstream from the dispersed ~~devices~~ file servers, the method comprising:

- receiving at the dispersed ~~devices~~ file servers instructions, wherein the instructions instruct the dispersed ~~devices~~ file servers to adapt the data;

- receiving the data from the remote sending device;

- adapting the data to conform to quality of service parameters associated with each network segment downstream from one of the dispersed ~~devices~~ file servers therein adapting the data at the dispersed ~~devices~~ file servers rather than adapting the data at the remote sending device wherein the dispersed file servers ~~devices~~ are located between the remote sending device and the plurality of network segments in the single heterogeneous network, the single heterogeneous network comprising a plurality of sub-networks, the plurality of sub-networks comprising a combination of peer-to-peer and client/server network types, a combination of local and wide area networks, and a hybrid combination of physical and logical network constructions, the physical and logical network constructions including broadcast, network bus, network ring, and logical star constructions, wherein the data is adapted by implementing a compression mechanism in response to a determination that packet size of the data exceeds a maximum transmission unit (MTU) of each network segment;

- transmitting the adapted data along each network segment to one of a plurality of segment endpoints wherein the segment endpoints comprise at least one recipient client and at least one sub-segment dispersed file server ~~device~~ that further adapts the data previously adapted to conform the data according to quality of service parameters associated with a network sub-segment adjacent to and downstream

from the at least one of the plurality of segment endpoints comprising the sub-segment dispersed file server~~device~~; and  
requesting new programming for adapting the data upon detecting changes in the quality of service parameters associated with at least one of the plurality of network segments;  
wherein values for the quality of service parameters vary among the plurality of network segments.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the data.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising transmitting the quality of service parameters from the file server ~~device~~ to a network administrator.

11 (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting data from a server to multiple dispersed receiving devices located at the end of disparate network segments in a single communications network, comprising:

a network device for distributing instructions, wherein the instructions are for adapting the data according to quality of service parameters associated with the disparate network segments in the single communications network, the single communications network comprising a plurality of sub-networks, the plurality of sub-networks comprising a combination of peer-to-peer and client/server network types, a combination of local and wide area networks, and a hybrid combination of physical and logical network constructions, the physical and logical network

constructions including broadcast, network bus, network ring, and logical star constructions;

a ~~media~~file server for receiving the instructions from the network device, implementing the instructions to adapt the data according to the quality of service parameters therein adapting the data at the ~~media~~file server rather than adapting the data at the server wherein the ~~media~~file server is located between the server and the disparate network segments, transmitting the adapted data along at least one of the disparate network segments to at least one of the receiving devices or a second ~~media~~file server, and requesting new programming for adapting the data upon detecting changes in the quality of service parameters for at least one of the disparate network segments, wherein the data is adapted by adjusting a packet size of the data in response to a determination that the packet size of the data exceeds a maximum transmission unit (MTU) of the at least one of the disparate network segments; and

the second ~~media~~file server further adapting the adapted data to conform the adapted data according to quality of service parameters associated with a disparate network sub-segment adjacent to and downstream from at least one of the disparate network segments; wherein values for the quality of service parameters vary among the disparate network segments.

Claims 14-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein the instructions further instruct the ~~media~~file server to replicate the data.

Claims 20-35 (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine~~computer readable medium having stored thereon executable code which causes a ~~device~~file server to perform a method of adapting data according to a set of parameters associated with a network segment that is downstream from the ~~device~~file server, the method comprising:

receiving at the ~~device~~-file server instructions, wherein the instructions instruct the ~~device~~  
file server to adapt the data;  
receiving the data from a sending device;  
adapting the data to conform to a set of quality of service parameters associated with a  
network segment downstream from the ~~device~~-file server in a single  
heterogeneous network comprising a plurality of sub-networks, the plurality of  
sub-networks comprising a combination of peer-to-peer and client/server network  
types, a combination of local and wide area networks, and a hybrid combination  
of physical and logical network constructions, the physical and logical network  
constructions including broadcast, network bus, network ring, and logical star  
constructions, therein adapting the data at the device rather than adapting the data  
at the sending device, wherein the data is adapted by implementing a compression  
mechanism in response to a determination that a packet size of the data exceeds a  
maximum transmission unit (MTU) of the network segment;  
translating a protocol of the data according to protocol requirements of the network  
segment;  
transmitting the adapted data along the network segment to a sub-segment ~~device~~file  
server;  
further adapting the adapted data at the sub-segment ~~device~~-file server to conform  
according to a second set of quality of service parameters associated with a  
network sub-segment adjacent to and downstream from the sub-segment  
~~device~~file server;  
transmitting the adapted data along the network sub-segment to a client; and  
requesting new programming for adapting the data upon detecting changes in the quality  
of service parameters for the network segment;  
wherein values for the quality of service parameters vary among each network segment.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~machine~~computer readable medium of claim 36, wherein adapting the data further comprises replicating the stream of data.

Claims 40-48 (Canceled)